

THE  
**ACE**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 1999**

QRG : 23/73FM

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## DIALOGS FEBRUARY 1999

Joe Filipkowski; 28 Mill Wheel Rd., Warwick, RI 02886-8453

JoeFLIPS@aol.com (401) 736-8826

### - LATE LOGS -

**Blind Faith Radio:** 12/20-1646-6955-USB. (LS,OH 353)  
**He-Man Radio:** 12/5-2232-6955-USB. (JM,PA)  
**KMART:** 12/19-0505-6955-USB. (JS,NE)  
**WKND:** 12/20-2101-6955-AM. (LS,OH 454) (JM,PA)  
**WMPR:** 12/20-2148-6955-AM. (JM,PA) (LS,OH 454 PLS QSL)

### - FROM ACROSS THE POND -

**Andino Relay Service-Casilla 2571, 1000 Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
 Dec.25-2242-2254-11470 & 7590-USB. Via SWRS, South American mx. (JR,VA 222)  
 Jan.3-0551-0620-7590-USB. Relay via SWRS, instrumental mx & requests. (JR,VA 222)

**Con Frecuencia-CC 950, 2000 Rosario, Argentina**  
 Jan.3-0744-0751-7590-USB. Relay via SWRS, terrible QRN. (JR,VA 111)

**Farmers From Holland-Po Box 108, 7720 AC Dalfsen, The Netherlands**  
 Dec.25-0743-0900+-6283.4-AM. Songs by Euro pop artists, ment The Netherlands. (MP,NY poor)  
 Dec.25-2153-2205-6283.2-AM. Mostly tx, gave a phone # to call in. (JR,VA 222)  
 Dec.26/27-2308-0004-6282.9-AM. Variety of mx. (GM,VA 232)

**Laser Hot Hits-Merlin, ONT**  
 Dec.25-0840-6220-AM. Song "Driving Home For Xmas", anned phone # & e-mail addr. (MP,NY 433)

**Play DX Music-via Davanzati 8, 20158 Milan, Italy**  
 Dec.25-2110-2129-11470 & 7590-USB. Mostly tx. (JR,VA 222)  
 Dec.25-2307-2322-11470-USB. Via SWRS, OM in Italian & English, little mx. (GM,VA 343)  
 Jan.3-0623-0645-7590-USB. Relay via SWRS, mostly tx incl listener letters. (JR,VA 222)

**Radio Blue Star-Postbus 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle, Netherlands**  
 Dec.24-2213-2339-6910.5-AM. Oldies mx incl "Only The Lonely". (JR,VA 343 hrd on Sony 2010 w/only the built in antenna! My best Euro reception)  
 Jan.2-2306-2344-6910.5-AM. Mx:"Knights In White Satin", "Radar Love". (JR,VA 111)  
 Jan.10-0715-0747-6910.5-AM. Mx:"Twilight Zone", "Bouquet Of Roses". (JR,VA good/ very good)

**Shortwave Relay Service-Wuppertal, Germany**  
 Dec.25-1805-2300+-11470-USB. Relays of Rock-It Radio, Play DX Music & a stn from Buenos Aires, Xmas carols & mx from around the world. (GM,CT 152/354)  
 Dec.31-1843-1950-11470-USB. Heard several partial IDs, song "Yellow River", EE & foreign language announcements. (GM,CT 151)  
 Jan.3-0505-0518-7590-USB. Xmas mx incl "Let It Snow", "White Xmas" & "O Come All Ye Faithful". (JR,VA 211)  
 Jan.3-1815-1926+-11470-USB. Relays of Rock-It Radio & WRX. (GM,CT 151)

**WUNH-Providence, RI**  
 Dec.27-0732-0759-7590-USB. Via SWRS, played what sounded like very old country mx. (JR,VA 111)

**Yellow Submarine Radio-c/o FRI, PO Box 520112, 44207 Dortmund, Germany**  
 Dec.25-\*2216-2234\*-11470-USB. Relay via SWRS, OM w/mx by The Archies, song "Thank You Very Much", ment special show, instrumental version of "Yellow Submarine". (JF,RI 232)  
 Dec.27-0803-0825-7590-USB. Oldies mx incl "Sugar, Sugar". (JR,VA 212)  
 Jan.3-0519-0535-7590-USB. Via SWRS, mx incl "Those Were The Days". "I'm The Pied Piper". (JR,VA 211)

**UNID**  
 Dec.25-0830-6210.1-AM. Bits of mx hrd. (MP,NY weak in QRM)  
 Dec.25-2212-2214\*-11470-USB. Via SWRS, OM played "Jingle Bells", gave a drop in Germany, QRT w/"bye-bye". (JF,RI 232 PLS ID/QSL)  
 Jan.17-0054-0110-6880-AM. OM annr, pop mx by British groups, mention of "special brdct" @0052, maybe Ozone Radio from Ireland? (EK,Alberta 242)

# - NORTH AMERICA - SHORTWAVE -

## **Blind Faith Radio-Merlin, ONT & blindfaithradio@yahoo.com**

Dec.24-0545-0553\*-6955-USB. Xmas pgm. (SM,OK)  
 Dec.25-1522-1557-6955-USB. Mx by Three Dog Night, U2, X-rated "Night Before Xmas" parody, sd no return postage necessary for QSLs. (RC,MA excellent) (LS,OH 455) (SM,OK)  
 Jan.1-1620-1630+-6955-USB. Dr.Napalm playing oldies like "Sun Goes By" by Doctor Music. (NW,ONT good) (LS,OH 454) (JS,NE 222)  
 Jan.3-\*1740-1805\*-6955-USB. Classic rock mx, ment George Zeller w/a case of beer on the beach at Cedar Pt amusement park in Sandusky, OH, slogan of "all oldies all the time". (GZ,OH 454+) (JA,NY 454) (JM,PA)  
 Jan.10-1712-1732\*-6955-USB. Doors tunes: "Break On Through", "Light My Fire", "The Crystal Ship", Monica Lewinsky joke. (JF,RI 343) (LS,OH 454)  
 Jan.16-1704-1735-6955-USB. Mx: "Wooden Ships", "Out In The Country", "Hey Big Brother", tx abt getting a QSL, FRN plug. (GM,CT 354) (JF,RI 343) (JC,ONT 555)

## **East Coast Beer Drinker-Blue Ridge Summit, PA**

Jan.1-\*0159-0237\*-6955v-USB. Mx/tx, sd Jap's can't make beer yet & they can't take away his license for drinkin' & brdesting, songs incl "Freebird"/"Working". (SM,OK very funny!) (MH,SC 333 hrd in TN)

## **He-Man Radio-Blue Ridge Summit, PA**

Dec.24-2223-2244-6955-USB. Special Xmas show w/He-Man singing various Xmas songs, QRM from Jimmy The Weasel. (JR,VA 333) (JS,NE 433+)

## **Jerry Rigged Radio-Providence, RI**

Dec.25-\*1308-1315-6955-AM. Xmas pgm of children singing Xmas songs. (JS,NE 333)  
 Jan.3-\*1712-1733\*-6955-USB. Pgm of rock mx, sd "testing our brdcast equipment". (GZ,OH 353+) (JM,PA)

## **KMART Radio-requested reports to FRN and/or ACE website**

Dec.24-2026-2030-6955-USB. Played "I Can't Drive 55" for Big Mike of WBIG, made an announcement that Radio 510 would be on. (GM,CT 454)  
 Jan.1-\*0623-0709\*-6955-USB. Stonecold playing mx. (SM,OK good show!)

## **Radio Beaver-Merlin, ONT**

Dec.26/27-2338-0004\*-6954.9-USB. Annr Bucky Beaver w/stn's Xmas pgm, DX version of "Twas The Night Before Xmas", mx by XTC, Stevie Nicks, Pink Floyd, slogan "if you're really Canadian show us your beaver!", usual Leave It To Beaver theme mx. (GZ,OH 454) (GM,CT 233 good show!) (WH,IL 254) (NW,ONT poor) (LS,OH 353) (SM,OK good show!) (JS,NE 433+)  
 Jan.3-\*0050-0056\*-6955-USB. Replay of Xmas show,quick QRT. (SM,OK) (GM,CT 333) (JR,VA 222)

## **Radio BINGO/CJNH-anncd e-mail address of radiobingo@chek.com**

Dec.26-1540-1543-6955-USB. New stn w/OM reading out bingo numbers along with soundbytes of Alan Masyga, Dr.Tornado, James Brownyard, Jimmy The Weasel & Desperado thrown in, ment John Arthur a few times. (LS,OH 354) (GZ,OH)

Dec.31-\*2048-2052\*-6955-USB. Replay 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (GZ,OH 434-) (MH,SC 353 hrd in TN)

Jan.1-0119-0125-6960-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (LS,OH 252)

Jan.1-1640+-6955-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (NW,ONT fair)

Jan.1-1930-1933\*-6955-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (GM,CT 354 strange show)

(JF,RI 343 PLS QSL) (JA,NY 454)

Jan.1-2255-2259\*-6955-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (SM,OK PLS QSL) (GM,CT 444) (JF,RI 343 PLS QSL) (MH,SC 434 hrd in TN) (JS,NE as JTA Radio)

Jan.2-2303-2307-6955-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (GM,VA 444)

Jan.3-\*1805-1809\*-6955-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (GZ,OH 454)

Jan.3-\*2147-2151\*-6955-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (GZ,OH 454) (LS,OH 454 PLS QSL)

Jan.3-2200-2203-6955-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (LS,OH 454 PLS QSL)

Jan.8-\*2301-2305\*-6955-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (SM,OK)

Jan.9-0437-0449\*-6955.1-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (SM,OK)

Jan.9-\*2121-2125\*-6955-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm,relay via Radio Eclipse. (GM,CT 454) (GZ,OH 454+) (SM,OK)

Jan.10-\*2045-2049\*-6955-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (GM,CT 354) (JC,ONT 433) (GZ,OH 454+) (JF,RI 444)

Jan.16-1735-1739-6955-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (GM,CT 354)

Jan.17-\*0112-0116\*-6955.2-USB. Replay of 12/26, 1540 UTC pgm. (GM,CT 454) (JF,RI 444) (GZ,OH

242/242-)-Lee Silvi in OH passes along word that he received an e-mail from "Jimmy Kershaw-Bingo Caller" for Radio Bingo. The op said reports can be sent to [radiobingo@chek.com](mailto:radiobingo@chek.com) and be sure to include a return address for a QSL. (JF)

## **Radio Blandequ-Merlin, ONT**

Jan.16-0123-0129-6955-USB. OM w/pgm of mx, one song in Spanish. (GN,TX fair to poor) (JC,ONT 333 as unid)

## **Radio Doomsday-QSL info unknown**

Jan.17-0124-0206-6955-USB. Pgm of heavy metal mx & comedy incl an FCC bit. (GM,CT 252)

## **Radio Eclipse-Providence, RI & reclipse@yahoo.com**

Dec.26-\*2241-2310\*-6954.9-USB. Steve Mann w/stn's Xmas show, George Zeller weather forecast, mx by Mojo Nixon, Men At Work, dedication to VOT Pig's Ear, Capt. No-Beard singing "Jingle Bells". (NW,ONT fair) (GM,CT 454) (SM,OK good show!) (JA,NY 555 great show!) (LS,OH 454) (GZ,OH 454) (JS,NE 433+)

Jan.8/9-\*2358-0027\*-6955-USB/LSB. Replay of Xmas show. (SM,OK)

Jan.15-2214-2222\*-6955-USB. Testing. (JC,ONT 333)

## **Radio Gerbil-Providence, RI**

Jan.17-0056-0111\*-6955.2-USB. Replay of the Radio Azteca parody. (GZ,OH 242 as R. Azteca) (JC,ONT 433) (EK,Alberta 343)

## **Radio Inca-Providence, RI**

Jan.17-0022-0038\*-6954.9-USB. OM w/pgm of instrumental & Spanish mx incl "Rancho Grande", Speedy Gonzalez cartoon tracks, heavy reverb IDs, @ QRT sd "thank you very much for listening to radio stn Radio Inca!". (GZ,OH 353) (GM,CT 454) (JC,ONT 444) (JF,RI 444) (GM,VA 444) (EK,Alberta 343)

## **Radio Tornado Worldwide-QSLs via Dialogs, FRW & ACE website**

Jan.16-\*2305-2326\*-6955-USB. Parody of Radio Metallica WW using remarks from Dr. Tornado recorded over repeated guitar riff from "Secret Agent Man". (GZ,OH 343+) (JC,ONT 322)

## **Radio Voice Of Trailer Park Ministries-QSL info unknown**

Jan.6-0148-0208-6956.8v-AM. Rev. Dr. RF Fields with replay pgm. (SM,OK PLS QSL) (JS,NE)

Jan.6-0325-0329-6956.8v-AM. Repeat pgm. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

## **Radio Xanax-Stoneham, MA**

Jan.16-1500-1545-6955-USB. "Don't Worry Be Happy" theme song, comedy ads, mx incl Natalie Merchant. (GM,CT 151)

## **RBCN-PO Box 24, Lula, GA 30554**

Dec.25-0050-0158\*-6955-USB. Return of stn w/ pgm #21 "The Best Of Radio Bob", rock mx, sketches & parody ads from past RBCN & VO Shakerag shows, anned as first new show in 2 & 1/2 years, sd no return postage needed for a QSL. (SM,OK) (MP,NY 3-454) (JR,VA 222) (JS,NE 433+)

Dec.25-2132-2204-6955-USB. Replay of 12/25, 0050 UTC pgm. (LS,OH 353) (WH,IL 133) (JS,NE)

Jan.1-\*0007-0119\*-6960-USB. Replay of 12/25, 0050 UTC pgm. (GZ,OH 353) (MH,SC 434/121 hrd in TN) (LS,OH 454) (SM,OK) (GM,CT 353) (JM,PA)

Jan.3-\*1418-1433+-6955-USB. Replay of 12/25, 0050 UTC pgm. (JA,NY 242)

Jan.3-1606-1712\*-6955-USB. Replay of 12/25, 0050 UTC pgm. (GZ,OH 252)

## **Take It Easy Radio-Belfast, NY**

Dec.25-0340-0413+-6955-USB. Replay of old Kraft Music Hall Xmas Special pgm from World War 2, OM annr gave Xmas greetings. (GZ,OH 252) (GM,CT 243 as WRYT) (JS,NE)

Dec.25-0512-0533\*-6955-USB. Xmas mx w/Desperado. (SM,OK)

Dec.25-0603-0608\*-6955-USB. Xmas mx w/Desperado. (SM,OK)

Dec.26-0045-0046\*-6955-USB. Wished Xmas wishes to the Armed Forces. (GM,CT 444)

## **WACK Radio-anncd 1-888-959-8177 or wackradiomail@juno.com for reports**

Jan.2-2133-2227\*-6955-USB. Mx by Alice In Chains, parody ads for Destitute Ken Doll. Princess Diana, Dickin's Cider, call-in from KBLK & Scott McArdle, ment Big Mike from WBIG, sd "WACK is back!". (RD,PA good) (GM,CT 545) (GZ,OH 353) (LS,OH 354) (JF,RI 343) (WH,IL 133) (RC,MA) (SM,OK) (GM,VA 444 PLS QSL)

Jan.3-0208-6955-USB. Funny ads. (WH,IL 133)

Jan.3-\*0316-0322-Taped replay of listener comments, BBC newflash "Hitler Is Dead". (JS,NE 222)

Jan.9-1946+-6955-USB. Song "Danny Boy" for Clinton, tx abt Clinton's illegitimate son. (GM,CT 555)

## **WEED-Huntsville, AL**

Dec.26-0458-0548-6955.1-AM. Lots of rock & roll. (SM,OK)

Dec.28-0118-0158\*-6955.1-AM. Var tunes incl Jimi Hendrix, pro-pot editorial. (MH,SC 232 hrd in TN)



WIBG "Radio 99"-QSL info unknown

Jan.8\*-0100-0125\*-6955.4-AM. Ads for The DX'ers Edge, Weasel Wizz Beer, Bill Clinton parody's incl "The Night I Pulled My Britches Down". (SM,OK PLS QSL)

WMPR-QSL info unknown

Dec.24-0006-0019\*-6955.4-AM. Techno Xms mx pgm, usual IDs. (JF,RI 444 PLS QSL) (JM,PA)

Dec.24-2202+-6955-AM. Replay of 12/24, 0006 UTC pgm. (LS,OH 554 PLS QSL) (GM,CT 354)

Jan.1\*-2207-2252\*-6955-AM. Usual stuff. (RD,PA good) (SM,OK PLS QSL) (MH,SC 544 hrd in TN) (JF,RI 444 PLS QSL) (GM,CT 353) (JM,PA) (JS,NE 433+ PLS QSL)

WPN-Huntsville, AL

Dec.26-0236-0320\*-6955.2-AM. Xmas pgm featuring mx from Handel's "Messiah" & QRT w/"Hallelujah Chorus". (JS,NE)

WRV-Belfast, NY

Jan.3-2043-2102\*-6955-AM. Return of stn w/host Pete The Pirate, songs included "Bring The Power Back", ACE promo w/old KC address. (JA,NY 343) (JF,RI 232)

WRX-Lula, GA

Jan.10\*-0105-0113\*-6955-USB. Jimi Hendrix version of Star Spangled Banner at s/on, annr Jimmy The Weasel singing "God Damn You" & "God Damn Ya Mama". (GZ,OH 353) (LS,OH 252) (SM,OK) (GM,VA 444)

Jan.10\*-2023-2032\*-6955-USB. Repeat of 1/10, 0105 UTC show. (GZ,OH 252) (LS,OH)

Jan.10-2152-2156-6955-USB. Repeat of 1/10, 0105 UTC show. (JC,ONT 222) (SM,OK)

Jan.17-0041-0049-6955-USB. Repeat of 1/10, 0105 UTC show, QRMd R. Inca. (GM,VA 444)

Jan.17-1611-1621\*-6955-USB. Repeat of 1/10, 0105 UTC show. (JC,ONT 333 PLS QSL)

WWRX "Jimmy The Weasel Parody Station"-annr wwrx@hotmail.com

Jan.15-0038+-6955-USB. Parody of WRX using remarks from Jimmy The Weasel much like the same style of Radio Tornado WW. (GM, CT 454 good example of doing something w/absolutely nothing!)

Jan.16-2315-2334\*-6955-USB. Replay of 1/15, 0038 UTC pgm. (GM,CT 343) (GM,VA 444)

Jan.17\*-1847-1858\*-6955-USB. Replay of 1/15, 0038 UTC pgm. (GZ,OH 454+ well produced)

## UNIDENTIFIEDS

Dec.23-1415-1426\*-6955-AM. Weak programming. (SM,OK)

Dec.25-1558-1619-6954.9-AM. Weak programming. (SM,OK)

Dec.27\*-2242-2250\*-6954.8-AM. Dirty #'s stn. (GZ,OH 444) (MH,SC 323 hrd in TN) (NW,ONT good) (JA,NY 555)

Dec.30/31-2257-0016+-6955-?. Continous mx:"Johnny Comes Marching Home", "Star Spangled Banner", "Swanny River" w/out any announcements. (RD,PA fair) (GM,CT 545) (SM,OK PLS QSL) (LS,OH 555) (JS,NE 434/222 PLS QSL)

Jan.1-0035-0057\*-6954.8-AM. R&B song, "Come Sail Away" by Styx, some talking. (SM,OK PLS QSL) (JA,NY 454 PLS QSL)

Jan.1\*-0155-0157\*-6955.2-USB. "Eve Of Destruction" played. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

Jan.1-0550-0611\*-6955-USB. C&W mx, song "Perfect Love", KMART testing? (SM,OK PLS QSL)

Jan.1-1948-1952\*-6955-USB. Op sd "testing 1-2", played "Down In A Hole" by Alice In Chains. (JA,NY 242 PLS QSL)

Jan.2-1905-1944+-14300-USB. All mx, variety of songs, sounded religious. (LS,OH 353 PLS QSL)

Jan.3\*-0135-0206\*-6955-USB. Various tunes incl "Chatanooga Choo-Choo", mx by BB King, bad audio. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

Jan.3-2153-2253-6955-AM/USB. Someone testing w/strange violin mx & song "Hair". (GM,CT) (LS,OH 454 PLS QSL)

Jan.8-0125-0129-6956-AM. Fair carrier but awful audio. (LS,OH 251 PLS QSL)

Jan.9-0300-0325+-1710-AM. Non-stop pop & alternative mx incl some new Pat Benatar, no announcements or IDs hrd. (JA,NY 323)-John Arthur notes that this xmtr is allegedly in IL. (JF)

Jan.9-1617-1628-6955-?. Mx, no IDs. (LS,OH 554)

Jan.9-2045+-6955-USB. Series of comedy ads incl one for Gillette Razors. (GM,CT 353)

Jan.16-0003-0048\*-6955-USB. 2001 mx, annr talked abt a perfect world where xmtrs cost 5 cents & all stns QSLd. (JC,ONT 222)

Jan.16-1740-1750-6955-USB. Irish mx, announced phonetic letters & copied only FPE. Ended w/"Old Lang Syne". (GM,CT 151)

## - CONTRIBUTORS / PLEASE QSL ADDRESSES -

John Arthur, 7994 Rte.19, Belfast, NY 14711-8702 (JA)

Brandon Artman, 515 N.Maryland Avenue, West Chester, PA 19380-2255 (BA)

Rainer Brandt, Wiesenweg 6, D-29361 Hoefer, Germany (RB)

Brett Brumley, PO Box 242, Vienna, IL 62995 (BB)

Jerry Coatsworth, RR #3, Merlin, Ontario N0P 1W0, Canada (JC)

Ross Comeau, 16 Linwood Street, Andover, MA 01810 (RC)

Charles Crawford, 1763 Turnagain Drive, Henderson, KY 42420 (CC)

Elmer Cronkright, 3570 Oriole Avenue SW, Wyoming, MI 49509-3443 (EC)

Rich D'Angelo, 2216 Burkey Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610 (RD)

Paul Demsky, 883 Broadway #2, South Portland, ME 04106 (PD)

Chris DeSanctis, 189 Charles Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27107 (CD)

Dave Ditlow, 10573 W.Pico Boulevard., Los Angeles, CA 90064-2348 (DD)

Joe Filipkowski, 28 Mill Wheel Road., Warwick, RI 02886 (JF)

Bill Finn, 2905 Tyson Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 (BF)

Dave Fisher, 12 Dupont Street W #207, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 2X6, Canada (DF)

Michael Folk, 810 Dalewood Drive, Villa Hills, KY 41017 (MF)

Craig Harkins, RR #1, Hillsburgh, Ontario N0B 1Z0, Canada (CH)

William Hassig, 102 North Russel Street, Mt.Prospect, IL 60056-2443 (WH)

Matt Haston, 22 Jamestown Commons, Taylors, SC 29687 (MH)

Mark Humenyk, 26 Crestridge Heights Road, Weston, Ontario M9P 1A4, Canada (MH)

Ron Hunsicker, 1238 Cleveland Avenue, Wyomissing, PA 19610 (RH)

Rich & T Jurens, 19107 Winding Trail, Katy, TX 77449 (RTJ)

David Krause, 36889 South Lakeshore Boulevard., Eastlake, OH 44095 (DK)

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Greg Majewski, 1176 Route 163, Oakdale, CT 06370 (GM)

Scott McArdle, 3500 S.Boulevard Suite 18C, Edmond, OK 73013 (SM)

John McWilliams, 5229 E.Trindle Road.-2nd Floor, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 (JM)

Greg Myers, PO Box 17186, Richmond, VA 23226 (GM)

Kevin Nauta, 1252 Ravanna SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508-2504 (KN)

Gary Neal, 7410 Orchard Hills Lane, Sugar Land, TX 77479-6122 (GN)

Benton Owsley, 8439 Boise Street, Ventura, CA 93004 (BO)

Marina Pappas, 366 3rd Street SE, Huron, SD 57350 (MP)

Dick Pearce, PO Box 8162, Brattleboro, VT 05304-8162 (DP)

Ray Pfaff, 4333 Cub Run Road., Chantilly, VA 22021 (RP)

Mike Prindle, Box 51, New Suffolk, NY 11956 (MP)

Ed Rausch, 17 Vanderberg Place, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 (ER)

Jesse Rose, 100 Margaret Drive, Hampton, VA 23669 (JR)

Robert Ross, PO Box 1003 Stn.B, London, Ontario N6A 5K1, Canada (RR)

Chris Scott, 4051 Clifton Avenue #3, Cincinnati, OH 45220 (CS)

John Sedlacek, 2728 North 45th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68104-4527 (JS)

Gary Seven, 675 86 Street Apt.A2, Brooklyn, NY 11228 (GS)

Lee Silvi, PO Box 982, Mentor, OH 44061 (LS)

Harry Smith, 3740 Bosart Road., Springfield, OH 45503 (HS)

Chris Smolinski, 4708 Trail Court, Westminster, MD 21158 (CS)

Tony Straka, PO Box 3178, Maple Glen, PA 19002 (TS)

Kirk Trummel, Quebec, Canada (KT)

Niel Wolfish, 112-2177 Avenue Road., Toronto, Ontario M5M 4B7, Canada (NW)

George Zeller, 3492 W.123rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 (GZ)

\*\*\* DX NEWS OF INTEREST \*\*\*

Deadline for March 1999 DiaLogs: February 20th

# Veried Response

your center for QSL information and comment

John T. Arthur, proprietor 7994 Rte 19 Belfast NY 14711-8702

(716) 365-8870 (m.o.l.) not collect e-mail: cc732@freenet.buffalo.edu

with help from the VR Troopers and other good Friends. VR is electronically transmitted to A\*C\*E HDQ on or before the 20th of each month; please send your input and comments to the above address to arrive prior to the 15th. Your active participation in the form of input, reports, suggestions, and/or constructive criticism is solicited and welcomed. Unless otherwise attributed, opinions in VR are those of this mildly disturbed individual and should not be misinterpreted to represent The A\*C\*E as an organization, or any other sane person for that matter. Got a beef? Comments and complaints should be directed to this columnist in triplicate for round-filing - and NOT to any other address.

"I can't understand why people are frightened by new ideas. I'm frightened by old ones." -- John Cage

## TROLLing for Pirates

formerly: off THE WALL  
the rumor center...

ADD to Box 28413: Harold Krishna's Music Svc, Partial India R...

Word from across the pond is that Radio Caroline is testing on 6940 kHz, in AM mode. No idea what power they're running, but it might be possible to hear them on this side...

Also, look for Radio Ozone on 6220 kHz 24 hours per day, and 3930 after 2000 UTC. They also use 7415 before 2000, but that's a lost cause on this side of the pond because of VoA Botswana and WBCQ...

Due to mail theft, several SAM stations are dropping the Argentina maildrop. Among those are: Andino Relay Svc, R Cochiguaz, and R Pirana. They are now using: Casilla 159, Santiago 14, Chile...

An old favorite is about ready for a return, according to word reaching this keyboard. Union City Radio is resurrecting their old Johnson rig and expects to start testing around 15050 kHz as soon as it's repaired.

Are you aware that we have a very famous radio personality as club President? Well, we do: Pat Murphy is a cricket reporter for the BBC! Bet \*he\* didn't even know that...

You may not know it, but you have been an unwitting participant in a little bit of history; the January VR was the first edition completely constructed and uploaded in Windows 95. I finally decided that the system was stable enough to shift completely over from the old DOS/WFW311 system I had been using for the last couple years. Now there's no going back, so wish me luck...

Final call for your participation in the 1998 A\*C\*E Pirate Poll. Here's your chance to let the Operators know what you like and don't like about the scene. You may cast a grand total of 12 votes: Three positive and three negative in two categories, Programming and Technical. We'd also appreciate a brief comment about your votes,

but it's not required. Nor are you required to be negative if you don't wish to be so. Remember, however, that you must vote for stations you have actually HEARD during the last year (1998). You may also be creative with additional categories, as well. Your ballots must be received by the last day of February, so please get out your log books and look over what you heard, then decide what you really, really liked and what you absolutely detested; jot them all down and get 'em in the mail to: ACE Poll, PO Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711. Will WREC top the Poll again this year? Will Radio Eclipse get mentioned at all? Your vote can make the difference!

"It's just like magic. When you live by yourself, all your annoying habits are gone!" -- Merrill Markoe

## The Radio Shack DX398 Portable Receiver

a review by Steve Mann of Radio Eclipse...

I have been using the Radio Shack DX-398 for about a year now and I am quite satisfied with this little radio. With features such as RDS or Radio Data System, 306 memories, 40 Hz tuning increments for SSB, and alphanumeric display of stations, how could I not at least try it out? Radio Shack gives you 30 days to return the item with no hassles. I like to call this my "trial period".

When I first came across it last spring, I was rather impressed by its looks. The DX-398 measures in at 8 1/2 x 5 3/16 inches and only weighs in at 1 3/4 pounds with the four AA batteries installed. Whenever I purchase a radio, I like to give an on the spot test for sensitivity. As I extended the telescopic whip, the RS associate told me I would not get any reception inside the building. I always check what the radio can receive in buildings made of concrete and steel because if you get some decent reception inside, you can get an idea of the radios sensitivity. I scanned through FM, MW, and SW to find the DX-398 passed its first test! But, how will it perform on a large outdoor antenna?

I was amazed at how much the front end of this radio could handle! I connected it to 500 feet of wire made into a horizontal loop and also to the trusty 43 meter inverted V antenna with no overload. Only one relatively close MW station (which beams 25 kW right through me) caused some overload and adjacent channel splatter. This was easily remedied by cutting back the RF gain. The only images I could detect were on LW.

The audio is rather nice for its size; even the tiny speaker sounds good. The DX-398 has Wide and Narrow filter settings for AM, but not SSB. I believe its Sangean cousin (the AT5909) has the filter functional on SSB. Also three tone control settings, Music, News, and Normal, provide even further audio adjustments. FM is of course in stereo through the 1/8 inch headphone jack on the left side. Other input jacks include the 6v-800 mA power supply jack, a Line Out and Standby for recording, and the 1/8 inch antenna input.

SW is broken up into 29 separate pages with 9 presets per page. The DX-398 comes pre-programmed with your favorite World Band stations. I did not care for this too much before I realized you can erase them. Here is how: Choose the frequency you wish to erase, press the Memory button, and then hit the Cancel button. Now you can preset up to 261 different stations for SW alone. LW has 9 presets, MW 18, and FM 18 as well. You can give each SW page a name with the alphanumeric display. I named one of the pages Eclipse! You can not



name each preset on SW, but it can be done on FM, MW, and LW. If you have any local FM stations using RDS, it will program the call letters automatically and adjust your clock if you choose to do so. I have found many stations using RDS have the incorrect time, so I usually bypass that option with a switch on the right side.

The RDS requires a rather strong signal to work. I did however get some FM DX to display in RDS this past summer during some tropo and Sporadic-E events. That sure helped in IDing the station!

Tuning increments are 5 KHz, 1 KHz for SW (AM mode) and 1KHz, 40 Hz for SW (SSB mode). The 40 Hz SSB tuning is super for listening to pirates that are slightly off frequency (like I am most of the time!). MW is in 10 KHz, 1 KHz and LW is 9KHz, 1 KHz. Tuning steps are adjusted on the front of the DX-398 with a button labeled Fast, Slow, and Stop tuning. You can tune via the Up/Down buttons of the front or use the tuning knob on the side.

This radio does have some disadvantages including major battery drain. If you intend to use this radio for long periods on batteries, make sure you have some spares. On the right side is the tuning knob which mutes as you change frequency. This is remedied with some modifications that I will include for next month.

Overall for under \$200, you get an above average little radio that has brought me many hours of enjoyable listening. If you elect to purchase the Sangean AT909, you get the power supply, a wind up antenna, and a little carrying case. Radio Shack only offers the carrying case.

Until next month, keep them xmtrs humming because I will be listening!

*"I never learned hate at home, or shame. I had to go to school for that."* -- Dick Gregory

## The Swappe Shoppe

buy, sell, trade announcements free to A\*C\*E members

Please be concise but complete: If you're looking for something, accurately describe what you want; if you're offering something for sale give make, model, honest condition, and asking price. Please help me keep these ads up to date! NO collect calls unless otherwise specified.

### Wanted:

Allied-Knight rcvrs, xmtrs, xcvs, and catalogs from the 60s and early 70s. Contact: John Vercellino, 6921 Springside Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60516.

New Zealand's free radio specialist needs recordings of US legal and pirate stations for a Radio Sound Archive. If you can contribute contact: SMR via Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711.

USA and Euro Pirates: Yr jingles and promos are needed by the Op of SMR for a 7" compilation. Send contributions via Box 1, Belfast; and help preserve Free Radio history.

### For Sale:

Radio Shack DX-394 HF receiver, excellent condition, with manual & telescoping antenna: \$175. MFJ-941D 300W HF antenna tuner, good condition, with manual: \$40. Motorola VHF linear amplifier, 5-7W in, 60W out, operates on 12VDC, with manual, \$50. Interested parties can contact: <tmsevert@fament.com> or write to: Tom Severt, 305 Granby, Frontenac KS 66763-2440. All items will ship UPS.

Attention Radio Enthusiasts! Absolutely EVERYTHING on my shack clean-out list MUST GO by 31 March! To get the complete list, please send a long (#10) SASE to: Brandon Artman, 515 N. Maryland Ave, West Chester, PA 19380. Hurry: Money-saving coupon available for a limited time only!

FT243 crystals for: 5825, 5850, 6025, 6100, 6150, 6250, 6275, 6300, 6875, 6900, 6975, 6987.5, 7250.3, 7400, 7465, 7470, 8356, and 8400: US\$5 each. Contact: jta for details.

Upgrade books for 10-meter radios including Uniden, Realistic, Ranger, RCI, Sommerkamp and more. Improve xmit, rcv, synthesizer and audio sections - no crappy CB junk! Inquiries require a #10 SASE, all others will be ignored. Contact: Bud Stacey, PO Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572.

Theremin - make wild sounds! Assembled PC boards with instructions, just add your case; 10 available: \$50 to ACE members. Contact: C Collins, POB 342502, Milwaukee, WI 53234.

Various FT243 crystals for older Heath and Johnson rigs; 90, 41 and 19 meters available: US\$10/each, shipped. For a complete list, send a #10 SASE to: DVS, POB 1, Belfast, NY 14711.

Now you can enjoy your favorite pirate programs in the privacy of your own home or car without all the usual noise and static! The DVS Archive contains over 400 programs from more than 100 different stations, and your cost is absurdly low: only US\$2 per program (\$4 for two on one tape) if you supply the tape, or for just \$6 DVS will supply the C90 for two programs. For a list of what's available, send a #10 SASE to: DVS, POB 1, Belfast, NY 14711.

Ever wonder how to broadcast legally - but without a license? Want to serve a small area on campus or around the school? "Adventures in Part 15 Broadcasting" is a clear, concise overview of the hobby and how it's done, what's permitted and what's not. Your copy is only US\$15 from: Bud Stacey, PO Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572.

### For Trade:

Commercial-grade FM exciter capable of 30 watts output, FCC type-approved, fully metered, set for 92.5 MHz. Will trade for quality HF rig with at least 100 watts output. Contact: jta for info.

*"It took man thousands of years to put words down on paper, and his lawyers still wish he wouldn't."* -- Mignon McLaughlin

# Free Radio QSL Statistics

(updated: 20 January 1999)

NAM = North American Pirate QSLs incl Canada  
dif = number of different stations represented

For = Foreign Pirate QSLs, outside NAM  
Tot = total different Pirate QSLs, NAM + For

NAME-STATE	Nam/DIF	Pirates For/diff	TOT	Cland tot/diff	BEST QSL
R. Brandt-DL	146/82	1363/787	869	16/10	KTVI / VotRock
G Zeller-OH	484/342	9/9	351	8/8	WHBH bust
J Filipkowski-RI	667/319	30/20	339		KMOM panties
J Arthur-NY	506/270	22/18	288	4/4	SML Ltd
N Wolfish-ONT	439/264	12/9	273		Radio Condor Intl
E Suter-VA	373/253	21/20	273		RBCN T-shirt
T Provance-OH	430/251	21/16	267	14/11	VoAcid
E Cronkright-MI	210/210	9/9	219		Anteater Radio
E Rausch-NJ	266/201	22/17	218		LVdMTiempo/ Argosy Mag
P Murphy-VA	248/196	19/15	211		CSIC chicken
R Pfaff-VA	188/174	21/21	196	9/9	Radio Amazonia can
J Coatsworth-ONT	213/173	26/20	193		KMOM
R Ross-ONT	200+/151	35/28	177	50/37	KIWI
C Collins-WI	213/174	1/1	175		Primitive Radio
C Crawford-KY	290/156	2/2	158		Car Show
JD Stephens-AL	182/147	9/8	155	8/8	Radio G'day
C Smolinski-MD	161/139	20/14	155	2/2	VoVoyager bust
E Kusalik-ALTA	185/116	26/24	148	103/64	Anteater lic plate
B Stacey-AL	262/136	2/2	138		Zepplin Radio WW
Y Lewis-IL	178/112	20/12	124		JRR-6229
W Taylor-PA	138/103	12/11	114		Vot Lumpfish
R Hunsicker-PA	147/105		105		WBSR
C Lobdell-MA	90/75	29/27	102		Radio Mi Amigo
J Rose-VA	189/93	11/7	100		Radio Korak Intl
M Leclerc-CT	150/89	6/5	94		RBCN
A Spremo-NY	138/83	13/8	91	1/1	All of them
R Pearce-VT	94/80	2/1	81		Radio Doomsday
S Gentry-IL	129/77	6/3	80		KMCR
R D'Angelo-PA	69/63	18/15	78	29/27	HeMan Radio
J McWilliams-PA	90/63	10/9	72		XEROX
B Shelley-CA	70/61	1/1	62		KIWI
S Rogovich-VA	56/52	2/2	54		Radio Clandestine
V Havrilko-FL	56/39	14/12	51		Radio USA
J Laws-QUE	54/43	1/1	44		Pt India Radio
J Foster-MI	53/44		44		WORK
F Bergman-WI	76/41	1/1	42		Radio Doomsday
R Ruger-CA	63/38	3/1	39		FBI
M Pawl-NJ	50/35	2/2	37		
S Foehner-NY	54/34		34		WORK
S Paszkiewicz-WI	35/33		33	4/4	Radio Blandx
E Wiley-GA	45/33		33		VotB&G, KDED
C Harkins-ONT	46/29		29		WGLR
R Doehner-TX	38/27	1/1	28		Vo An American
C Scott-OH	48/27		27		This is not Mystery R
G Lytle-TX	32/26	6/1	27		KIWI
G Neal-TX	27/23		23	3/3	Anteater License Plate
E Reynolds-NJ	30/21	1/1	22		Live Wire Radio
T Mazanec-OH	26/19		19		Vot Blue & Grey
S Bickel-KY	21/16		16		Radio USA
B Wooten-GA	16/13		13		
C Cuomo-PA	11/10		10		
H Short-MA?	10/9		9		Radio Garbanzo

The ACE QSL Statistics appear in the Feb, May, Aug, and Nov editions of Veried Response. Kindly update your totals in January, April, July, and/or October for inclusion; mail them to: ACE Stats, PO Box 1, Belfast NY 14711. Please note that the ACE Stats are only available to A\*C\*E members!

## Under the door - the QSL report for February 1999

Rick Aiello boasts a full data wine-label sheet and Wisconsin license plate with tape of the program from KAT in about 4 months, and a full data "certificate of reception" from Voice of Anarchy in about the same length of time. Ross Comeau is proud of a full data 'pirate treasure map' sheet (#74) and business card from WBIG in 41 days, and a full data full-color Blind Faith Album cover sheet from Blind Faith R signed by Captain Napalm in 21 days for a report sent to e-mail address.

Charles Crawford was pickled tink with a 8.5x11 sheet with K-Mart sales items (bras, panties, & women) (#1) from KMART signed by Stone Cold in ten days, a full data "provisional e-mail QSL (#1) from R Bingo signed by Jimmy Kershaw (bingo caller), for report to [bingoradio@chek.com](mailto:bingoradio@chek.com) after response to ACE webpage posting, a full data color antenna-world card (#294) signed by Radio Bob in six days, and a beautiful 8.5x11 color "Banned Album Cover" sheet (#0,000,043) from Blind Faith Radio signed by Doc Napalm in 12 days for e-mail report.

Joe Filipkowski scored a frequency only bumper sticker from WACK R in 6.5 months, two full data cards with a sticker & infobooklet from R Titanic International (via NA relay) signed by Tim Cooper in 11 months, and 2 full data paper cards from Vot Pig's Ear in 2 months for loggings.

Craig Harkins is stoked about three really nice but no data bumper stickers from WACK in 7 months, a whole wack 'o' stuff like stickers, lables, pamphlets about a Titanic (boat) Show at a museum in Hamburg Germany, a RTI newsletter, a postcard of the ship at sea, and a full data card from Radio Titanic Intl for a relay by WREC in 11 months, a full data yellow sheet (#42) from Betty Boop R signed by Rollo Verndiegh in two months, a pshycheledic colors postcard (#6) from KORN in about two months, an un-numbered "Crusades edition magazine cover" from Argosy R show aired in 4 months, and a no data sheet from Vo Hell signed by Satan Lucifer in an unspecified length of time.

Edward Kusalik ran around town waving a full data "Indian Troops Clash with Pakistan" sheet & verie letter for my 'outstanding catch' from Partial India R signed by Harold Krishna in 70 days, a QSL from WJFK (didn't hear this year (98) but did last year (97) so better late then never) signed by JFK, and QSL #3 from R Eurogeek (St. Helena broadcast) for a e-mail report within 24 hrs of broadcast.

John McWilliams ran around in circles with a full data card (#233) with stickers, postcard and station history from R Titanic Intl signed by Tim in 300 days, and a full data sheet from Partial India R signed by Harold Krishna in 71 days.

Jesse Rose papered an entire wall with a full data "you've been booped"card (#45) from Betty Boop R signed by Rollo Verndiegh in 4 weeks, a full data "Albert, Bob, and George" card (#15) and personal letter from Scream of the Butterfly (via R Eclipse) signed by Johnny Rockin in 8 weeks, a full data unsigned "letter of confirmation" plus lotsa stuff from Blue Star R direct from Europe with 50 watts! in 8 weeks, a full data "transmitter"card (#287) and personal letter from RBCN signed by Radio Bob in 2 weeks, a full data "confirmation of reception report" and station history from R Free London (30 watts!) signed by Tony Randall in one month, and a full data "Pedal Power" card and personal letter from Britan's Better Music Station that said was the first report from US for a direct broadcast signed by Pam and Gary Stevens in 4 weeks--my 100th different pirate station QSL'ed! [congrats! jta]

Ye Olde Columniste scored a full data sheet (#189) from R Garbanzo for the "Farewell PJ Sparx" program signed by FF in about 5 months, and a "provisional" Email QSL (#5) from R Bingo (CJNH) in a few days.

Until next, great DX and 73...

SIG file tagline of the month: "Microsoft has announced that the release of Windows 2000 has been delayed until 1901."



# CLANDESTINE PROFILE

George Zeller 3492 West 123rd St. Cleveland, OH 44111-3553

georgez@acclink.com

Your loggings, information, and speculations about clandestine radio stations are always very welcome for this column. You can send them direct to your editor at 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. Or, you can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1200-2045 UTC weekdays. E-mail input is welcome via my georgez@acclink.com address.

## WGTG QUASI-CLANDESTINES ON 6890 kHz

John T. Arthur of New York noticed that on January 17 some relays of quasi-clandestine right wing USA programs materialized on 6890 kHz in upper sideband mode. John noted that Republic Radio was among the programs relayed. The station is on the air for long periods of time in the evenings beyond 0100-0300 UTC. I checked out the same signal on January 18 and found a series of programs including Majority Opinion and the Tom Valentine Show in the 0145-0245+ time frame.

John and I noted that whenever there should be an ID inserted, the station goes off the air momentarily. However, during the Majority Opinion program the announcer twice mentioned that he was being carried via USA licensed station WGTG. Tom Valentine actually mentioned the 6890 kHz frequency, saying that he had inquiries about where it was coming from. Valentine did not answer this puzzle, but instead said that he was happy to have all of the relays of his show that he can get on SWBC, satellites, pirates, etc.

John Arthur notes that this probably is a sideband relay of a satellite feed. I suspect that John is correct, but I also believe that this is the normal WGTG feed, given the announcement on the Majority Opinion program. As of the deadline for this month's Clandestine Profile, we don't have full details on this. But, the signal is easy to hear in North America, so you may wish to tune down to 6890 kHz in the evenings to see what is going on here.

## DICK PEARCE UNID ON 495 kHz

We have another unusual logging this month that falls into the category of the strange. ACE member Dick Pearce of Vermont says that he is hearing a Spanish language broadcast on the highly unusual frequency of 495 kHz between the longwave and medium wave bands. On several January nights he noted it around 0800-0900+ UTC with what Dick says "sounds possibly clandestine." A male announcer gave a speech with a crowd of people who shouted approval of his remarks. Dick says that the word "Policika" was repeatedly mentioned. There was also some music programming. Dick noted that he heard the words, "Caracas, Venezuela" around 0900 UTC one evening, but he could not fish out a full definite ID.

Dick wonders what this might be. He speculates that a subharmonic of a South American medium wave station is a possibility, and we can't reject that this is some sort of internally generated signal in Dick's receiver. He asks if anybody has heard this, or if anybody has any ideas on what this might be. I have checked out the frequency on a couple of occasions, although not as late at night as 0800 UTC, and I did not hear even a heterodyne in Cleveland. Let us know if you have any information that might be relevant to this unusual logging.

## KOSOVO CLANDESTINE?

In *Clandestine Radio Watch* #21, citing Harald Kuhl of Germany and a press release covered by Deutsche Welle, rumors have surfaced that the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) has plans to set up Radio Free Kosovo on shortwave. Times, frequencies, and other critical details on the organization's plans have not surfaced. But, the press release is available from the Deutsche Welle monitoring site, but the URL is the most complicated thing that I've ever seen, so you probably should search for it yourself if you want to check it out. We'll have to pay attention to this potentially evolving situation.

## ZACHARIAS LIANGAS LOGS

As usual we have a variety of clandestine loggings from Zacharias Liangas in Italy, which we appreciate.

Many of them came with bylines from Retziki, Greece.

**Eritrean Front station.** He found this signal on 9230 kHz at 1532 UTC on December 19 from Thessaloniki. Programming was a mix of Arabic talks and instrumental music. He notes that the transmitter modulation was poor.

**Radio Fana.** Zacharias logged this one from his Thessaloniki, Greece DX location on 6940 kHz at 1718 UTC on December 19 with Arabic talks on democracy. I have to print one whole line of his logging, "Strong QRM from Greek pirates on USB." This is quite a problem to have. Has anybody ever heard a Greek pirate from the USA?

**Radio Shargi Iran.** Zacharias believes that this is the Radio Communist Iran station. He heard it on 4370 kHz from 1549-1600\* UTC on January 13 with Chinese (I) music and commentaries.

**radio ye Irane harrga.** At 1800-1824+ UTC on January 5 he heard this one in Farsi with commentaries by a male announcer, as well as music. He noticed many references to Afghanistan during the broadcast. A jammer sounding like the old Soviet woodpecker was on frequency.

**shawt al shab el iraqi.** This one came in on 3900 // 4755 kHz from \*1730 on January 16. Hymns and typical clandestine political commentary made up the program format.

**(unidentified).** What sounded like a clandestine featuring Arabic talks, music sounding Ethiopian, and news was spotted on 6940 kHz January 7 around 1515 UTC.

**Voice of Palestine.** On parallel frequencies of 6035 // 6145 // 9695 kHz, he heard this one with two male announcers giving Lebanese, UK, and USA news around 1830 UTC on January 3. The frequencies are variable.

**Voice of the Mojahed.** On 4870v kHz at 1800 UTC on January 16, Zacharias heard this station giving numbers in English! The number heard were 0049 221484768 and 221 488597. These don't look like telephone numbers, so the implication is that they were genuine coded messages, or perhaps benign coded numbers read off to sound like genuine ones. He says that all of their frequencies were in use on this date, including 4420v, 4630v, 5110v, 5310v, 5360v, 5610v, and 5710v kHz.

**Voice of the Tigre Revolution.** Zacharias pulled this one in on January 15 using its 5500 kHz frequency. Zacharias notes that he had been confusing this one with Radio Omdurman, which uses 9200 kHz.

## CUMBRE DX CLANDESTINE NEWS

ACE member and *Cumbre DX* distribution editor Ullis Fleming of Maryland sends in a variety of clandestine news from the pages of this excellent weekly internet DX resource. Cumbre is sent free via e-mail to contributors. If you need information on how to contribute, [ullis@ix.netcom.com](mailto:ullis@ix.netcom.com) is Ullis Fleming's e-mail address, and he'd be happy to fill you in. He'll send you a FAQ description of how Cumbre works if you ask him for it. Here are a handful of interesting recent Cumbre logs:

**International Broadcasting Corporation, Tamil.** According to Art Deilbert of Maryland and Mahendra Vaghjee of Mauritius, a new station on 7460 kHz is being heard in the 0000-0100 UTC period. It included an English language ID for the International Broadcasting Corporation, Tamil, along with English news. But, the bulk of the programming is in presumed Tamil language. In Cumbre they speculate that this is probably a new clandestine voice of the Tamil Liberation Tigers. Signals have been good, and given Art's log from Maryland, the station is getting into North America.

**Radio Kudirat Nigeria.** Hans Johnson monitored an announcement from this one on December 31 on 11540 kHz at 1940 UTC, which stated that the station was leaving the air for "maintenance" in 1999. They made vague statements about a return. Johnson speculated that the QRT from the station had little to do with maintenance, since the South African transmitter that they use is certainly in good shape. Hans figures that financial and political problems are behind the closedown, and he's almost certainly correct. *Clandestine Radio Watch* reaches the same conclusion, applying the logic to many Nigerian clandestines that have gone QRT. Has anybody been hearing Kudirat lately?

**Vorgan.** As part of the Angola peace agreement, the Vorgan clandestine of UNITA was shut down. But, according to *Clandestine Radio Weekly* and Hans Johnson of Florida's citation of BBC reports, Vorgan went back on the air with a shortwave transmitter on January 6. As Hans accurately points out, 6225 around 2100\* UTC and 9770 around 0500 UTC were frequencies regularly used by this one when it was on the air.



Many of you have by now received your copy of the 1999 edition of the *World Radio TV Handbook*. Veteran clandestine DXers will remember the WRTH's long-standing notorious policy of overtly ignoring clandestine stations in their listings, basically as a support for licensed international broadcasting and in compliance with the International Telecommunications Union. This policy was, of course, a significant drawback to the usefulness of the publication as a shortwave reference, since it therefore ignored many dozens of shortwave broadcasters. As many of us are aware, the policy has changed. Although there is still no reference to clandestines in the detailed country listings, the "Shortwave Stations of the World" frequency list on pages 545-568 does contain station names and frequencies of clandestines. This is not as good as the station descriptions and addresses for clandestines that appear in addition to frequency and time listings in the 1999 *Passport to World Band Radio*, but in comparison to the WRTH's former policy of censoring clandestines, this is a big improvement.

Andy Sennitt's replacement as WRTH editor, David Bobbett, has done a good overall job with this year's book. But, in a reference volume of this magnitude there are always things to criticize. The equipment reviews have been downgraded to one page summaries, which was a step backward. The new Kneisner and Doering KWZ-30 DSP receiver from Germany is notable by its absence from these reviews. There are no pirate listings in the book. Under DX clubs, *Free Radio Weekly* and *Clandestine Radio Watch* are omitted, which is unfortunate because these are major DX resources. However, the disbanded *Pirate Pages* does get a listing. Finally, they list the Association of Clandestine radio Enthusiasts as a DX club in North America, but the address for ACE is listed in Shawnee Mission, Kansas. This is only about three years out of date. We ought to get in touch with WRTH staff, so that next year they might get this right. As a consolation prize, they do list the ACE web site with the Free Radio Network URL.

#### **KLINGENFUSS BOOKS**

Joerg Klingenfuss announces that many of his publications are available, including 1999 editions of *Shortwave Frequency Guide* and *Guide to Utility Radio Stations*. He also sells a *Super Frequency List* on CD-ROM that is useful. The CD contains listings from both of his other books, including clandestine frequencies. These references are widely available at shortwave retailers. If you need information direct, Klingenfuss has a good web site that has <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Klingenfuss/> for its URL.

#### **IMPORTANT CLANDESTINE RESOURCES**

We don't have room here in *The ACE* to list every development in clandestine radio. Thus, good clandestine information resources are very important supplements. It seems like I mention two of these sources every month, but I can't reinforce the point enough. Clandestine Radio Watch, with <http://www.swl.net/swl-de/swl-cla.htm> as its internet URL, is produced regularly by Martin Schoech of Germany. This is an incredible collection of breaking clandestine news. Our own Nick Grace cites the CRW material on the unbelievably good <http://www.qsl.net/yb0rmi/clang.htm> Clandestine Radio Intel web site. If you have any interest at all in clandestine radio, these information sources will be regular stops for you.

For those interested in Cuba, Maximo Tomas continues virtually weekly updates to his very elaborate collection of web site links that relate to Cuba. Many of these have clandestine radio connections. At <http://www.iaker.net/nike/megalinks/html> you can use Maximo's Cuba Megalinks Center data. Another good Cuban reference is Armando F. Mastrapa's Clandestine Radio: An Anti-Castro Historiography site. You can access this useful material via <http://polisci.home.mindspring.com/ach.html> on the internet.

#### **SOUTH AMERICAN MAILDROP**

Various South American pirate stations all sent in word this month that the Buenos Aires, Argentina maildrop has been closed. Most of the stations experienced theft of their mail from this drop, including the fact that my report to Radio Cochiguaz was stolen. Somebody is making a living stealing IRC's in the Buenos Aires post office. No clandestines are using the new address yet, but maybe we will get lucky in the future. The new drop for a variety of stations, including Radio Cochiguaz, Andino Relay Service, and Radio Piraña International is Casilla 159, Santiago 14, Chile. Radio Blandengue has announced that it no longer uses Buenos Aires, and that reports to them should go to PO Box 293, Merlin, Ontario N0P 1W0 in Canada.

Jeff White of WRMI on 9955 kHz in Miami sends in a copy of the latest WRMI schedule. Some of the programming on this USA licensed station continues to be clandestine programming, such as *La Voz de Alpha 66* at 1000 UTC and *La Voz de la Fundacion* at 1100 UTC, both Monday through Friday. Fundacion takes this entire two hour block on Saturday. Fundacion gets an hour at 0000 UTC, with Alpha 66 on for an hour at 0100 UTC, again Monday through Friday. *La Voz del CID*, now called *30 Minutos con el CID*, gets its 30 minutes at 2330 UTC Monday through Friday and at 1430 UTC on Saturday. A variety of other clandestines, mainly Cuban, are on at various times. But, the schedule is also peppered with religious shows, DX programs, a daily half hour of English SWBC programming from Radio Prague at 0400 UTC, and even something called the *Frank Zappa Show* at 0500 UTC on Saturdays.

Jeff notes that the schedule changes frequently, so he sends it out at least once a month via e-mail. If you would like to be added to his list, send your e-mail address to their address, which is [wrmi@compuserve.com](mailto:wrmi@compuserve.com) on the internet.

#### **THANKS!**

This month we thank the following DXers who sent in material direct to this column: and Dick Pearce (Vermont), John T. Arthur (New York), Zacharias Lingias (Italy), Al Quaglieri (New York), Martin Schoech (Germany), Maximo Thomas (Florida), Ullis Fleming (Maryland), and George Zeller (Ohio). Next month we all hope to hear from YOU by February 20 for the March ACE Clandestine Profile.

#### **(...continued from page 22) TenTec Receiver Product Review**

Another step for noise reduction is to get the computer and display away from the radio and antenna. This is especially important if one uses the unit's whip antenna. The supplied 6 foot RS-232 cable is OK. For my use, I have obtained another 6 foot cable to get the radio even further away. It is possible to get RS-232 cables up to about 20 feet in length from a computer supplier. If you want to use the whip antenna, I highly recommend a longer RS-232 cable to get the receiver and antenna away from your computer.

The TenTec web site [www.tentec.com](http://www.tentec.com) is an excellent source of information. Not only is the latest software available there, but there is also a programmer's reference manual and a set of schematic drawings with parts lists. It is possible to run the software without the receiver. One does not hear anything, but you do get an excellent idea of what the software does.

Here is what I enjoy about the RX-320: The ability to be in an Internet chat room, have someone mention a frequency being active and to go to that frequency quickly is marvelous; A few clicks of a mouse and the frequency is set; The capability to have different files with different frequencies for different services is also great. Depending on my interest at the time, I have specialized lists for each service. The RX-320 is designed to be interfaced into a computer audio system. Using a spectrum analyzer program for my sound card allows me to inspect the characteristics of signals. This is very helpful in observing some of the new digital modes on short-wave frequencies.

The bottom line for the RX-320 receiver is that it is an excellent value for its price. Its performance is good, but not great. TenTec has a long history of making excellent amateur and commercial HF equipment and RX-320 shows it. It is a well made product. The receiver is aimed at the people who are knowledgeable about computers, but are not short-wave hobbyists. With increasing sunspots, more people will want to listen to short-wave broadcasts. The RX-320 does allow people with computers to easily do this. The receiver also shows a future trend of using digital signal processing to replace analog circuitry.

In my opinion, TenTec should make the following improvements: Replace the RCA phono jack with a BNC or UHF jack and switch and improve the phase noise of the VCO. The improvement of phase noise should allow the RX-320 to have the same performance at 500 KHz as that at 2 MHz. If you have a computer, it is a good buy.

(Thanks to Greg Majewski for his informative review. We welcome product reviews or articles of general interest from any ACE member. — Steve Rogovich, newsletter editor)

# Micro 'casting

Bud Stacey, P.O. Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572-0907

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The sole purpose of this column is to enlighten & educate ACE members about the many facets of Part 15 and micro radio- this is YOUR column! Please send all newspaper clippings, tapes, station profiles and what-have-you to the mailing address or e-mail address above.

Hello again! Even though SW pirate activity seems to have slowed, FM (and some AM) activity is growing by leaps & bounds! Searching the newsgroups on the 'net shows more folks inquiring on how to start up a station, what's the best gear to buy, or how to get the most out of what they have. The 'net is now the fastest way to get information on "how-to", since not much was in print. I've only seen a couple of "how-to" booklets offered, mine included (which dealt STRICTLY with Part 15 radio!). Don't be surprised at the micro radio movement's growth even as the FCC ponders low power licensing....Speaking of which, they've pushed it back to this month to possibly rule on LPFM licensing, unless things have changed again!

In this vein, there was a bit of news forwarded from FRN (Free Radio Net): "Peter Franck, a lawyer with the CDC (?) reports that the FCC staff started INTERNAL circulation of a DRAFT RULE that would re-legalize LPBC (low power broadcasting). Depending on the comments received from Commissioners & key staffers, the Draft Rule will then be re-drafted into a revised Proposed Rule, which will be presented for consideration by the Commission at a meeting Jan 29." This can't be confirmed nor denied, but Peter Franck indicated his source is The Media Access Project, a well-established Lawyer-led activist group in Washington, with strong ties to the "anti-profit" wing of the LPBC community" (Submitted by Don Schellhardt). More info is indicated to be seen at website <http://www.concentric.net/~Radiotv/> and also at website <http://www.fcc.gov/mmb/prd/lpfm/>

One note here, regarding possible LPFM frequency auctions: it is this guy's opinion that IF auctions are used, that they be a low-enough bidding spectrum for everyday folks can afford it- an NOT a filter to keep only high-paying corporations "in the game"....

**FOREIGN MICRO STATIONS:** I've recently been informed there's a new pirate FM band! It's located in the 60 cm band, 480-490 MHz in Holland and 480-495 MHz in Belgium! In Twente, Holland alone, there are more than 50 active stations. Info sent was thus: "We are using wide FM, 75 kHz deviation with FM stereo and some of us have RDS. Polarization is horizontal, using a FUBA A antenna from Germany. The transmitter is built with an oscillator and buffer and a 100mw trap, amplified by a MHW720 module by Motorola, giving 25 watts out. Some of us have combined two MHW720's for 50 watts out. For rx we use a converter- the oscillator works on 380 MHz- the mixer is the SBL1 and 2x bfg65 as an amplifier- output is then 100-110 MHz. For more info, go to website: <http://www.kwik-net.nl/users/twilight/default.htm>"

Very interesting! And there were inquiries about Canada's low power stations; information sent was thus: "Canada has made great use of low power relay stations (LPRT) to cover remote and rural Canada and has done this for four or five decades at least. In the 1950s and 1960s, many CN railroad stations had small vertical antennas or longwires which retransmitted the CBC programs at 10 to 50 watt power levels. With the advent of FM, many unmanned transmitters were established with the same idea.

Unlike the USA, with local origination rules, the Canadians allowed repeaters of stations to be installed in towns where a self-supporting

local service could not survive. Many of these repeaters were full facilities, often 1 KW day and night Class IV stations or smaller facilities on regional channels. Obviously, Canada only allowed low power stations in unserved, rural areas or as French language services in areas with very few Francophones (whatever THAT is! Bud)" (Submitted via **alt.radio** by David Gleason)

**EQUIPMENT REVIEW:** There's a new kid on the block in my area, offering FM transmitters and the like for microbroadcasting; the trouble is, no one has heard from them after ordering their equipment! Their name is Seaside Electronics, operating out of a suite/office on a main drag here in Mobile. One wonders when this happens, if it could be a "front" for darker matters. More as this company is investigated- I hope things come out on the up-and-up, what with the holidays past and the hamperings of shipments gone out during that time....

**STATION SILENCED:** Posted on Dec 28 with a follow-up on Dec 31, 1998 was the news of KYZK FM-94.5 and AM 910 shut down by the Feds. They claimed to be the Northwest's longest-running active pirate station (Everett, WA). They were visited by three FCC agents with an order to cease further transmissions. The station operator, Kaci Martin, was sure she would one day be visited by the FCC, but was surprised they didn't come "busting in here with SWAT teams and machine guns...but they were very calm and they even allowed us to finish the programming hour without any on the air interruptions." Martin said they would comply with the order--for now. "We have \$37,000 worth of studio equipment and they could have taken it all...we were lucky. The only ones I feel sorry for are our listeners", she said as another station employee answered phones & explained the situation. KYZK also ran another transmitter on 1700 kHz which was also silenced.

There is MUCH more to the story, but no space here for further details; we all wish the best of luck to KYZK in returning to the air while they wait for the FCC to rule on LPFM licensing.

Comments following this posting came from Stephanie, the former owner of Rev94Three; she shut down the station due to "multiple technical glitches" and a staff that was causing trouble--plus she was going into debt. She also mentioned "Burton's 101.9 and that Chinese station on 87.9" and one she thinks was KCUF. She claimed to be well up on the Western Washington micro scene--maybe more later....

**STATION PROFILE:** From Dick Pearce comes info about Radio Free Brattleboro! "RFB" broadcasts with a Ramsey FM100 with 25mw on 88.1 and can be heard from the post office to exit 1- I don't know what range this is, but it sounds to be Part 15 area coverage! RFB is working on expanding their coverage. Their program guide states that, from 3pm until midnight, RFB plays the most diverse selection of music within a 50 mile radius! RFB is a successful collective of teens and adults working together to provide non-commercial independent radio programming to the Brattleboro (VT) area. RFB has even taken out an ad in the local newspaper to announce their presence! Go RFB!

In my opinion, in light of Radio Free Vermont's victory over the FCC, RFB could/should follow in their footsteps in this legal precedent (see the report in the Jan. '99 ACE). By the way, Dick also sent me a copy of the Amherst Declaration, regarding low power station operation. I think you can obtain a copy by contacting [capistrano@earthlink.net](mailto:capistrano@earthlink.net); if not, send me a first class SASE and I'll send you a copy- no SASE, no copy....Thanks to Dick Pearce for the great info packet!

ADIOS! Until next time (with "Happy Trails" playing in the background), keep that ear to the radio, pen to paper and the phone lines alive with calls & e-mail to your Congressmen/women regarding support for micro radio! Thanks to all who have helped make this column possible...and in the words of "Happy Harry" of "Pump Up The Volume": "Talk hard!" de Bud



## Covert Comms

By Tom Severt

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Welcome again to Covert Comms, a column dedicated to the mystery of numbers stations and other unusual signals heard on the HF bands. This column is for you, the reader, so your comments, suggestions, and input are highly appreciated.

Not all unusual radio transmissions are of the voice or CW capacity. This month I want to take a look at an unidentified signal that has been on the air for at least the past eight years.

This is a high-speed data burst signal that I first heard while in England. According to information provided by Day Watson, these signals show up at good levels in the UK and are rumored to be of British military origin. Each burst is 6 seconds long and is sent at 110 baud with a wide 1350 Hz shift. The data is synchronous and is most likely encrypted.

Normally two stations can be heard on the same freq, one signal with a slightly lower pitch. Often one signal is much weaker than the other. It would seem that the two stations are communicating with each other. The transmissions occur at different times past each minute for each frequency used.

### Frequency Seconds past top of minute

3295.3	+51
5436	+43 +21
6354	+36 +13
8460	+06 +28
12726.2	+51 +59 +21
16096.2	+43 +13
22139.3	+36 +06

When the transmission times for each minute are compared, no two transmitters are on the air at the same time with the exception of the two transmissions at 6 seconds past each minute. This would suggest that it is possible that there are just a few transmitter sites for this system. Of course, without using any DF or having any other knowledge of this system, it's impossible to tell how many transmitters and transmitter sites are being used. It's obvious that global coverage is desired for this system judging on the wide range of frequencies in use, from 3 to 22 MHz. As always, there may be more frequencies in use, but the ones listed above are the only known frequencies on which this signal regularly appears.

Which brings us back to the main two questions: Who is operating this system and for what purpose? It is reasonable to suggest that it is being used by the British military as the signal levels are very good in that country. Signal levels are somewhat decent here in North America. I can usually hear it on 5436 and 6354 with fair to good levels, so listeners on the east coast should be able to hear this signal much better. Unfortunately, without knowing much about the system, there's no way to decode the data bursts. We don't know much about these signals, but we do know that it must be a good reliable system as it has been in use for many years.

If anyone would like to receive a .wav file recording of this signal, please email me at the address at the top of the page and I'll be happy to send you a short recording. And of course, if anyone has any information about these signals and would like to share it, I'd be more than happy to include the information here.

That's all for this month. I would like to include your loggings of numbers stations and other unusual signals in this column every month. If you would like to have your loggings included here, send them to me at either of the addresses at the top of the page. You may remain anonymous if you wish. Also, the Winter SWL Festival in Kulpville, PA is just around the corner. I am planning on attending and hope to see you there.

## It's Not Your Father's Receiver - The TenTec RX-320

Product Review by Gregory Majewski

When I started in the SW radio listening hobby, one could tell the quality of a receiver by the number of knobs on the front panel. The better ones had more and with labels like band select, band tuning, band spread, mode select, BFO adjust, xtal phasing, bandwidth, audio level (volume), RF gain, etc. I recently got a new receiver from TenTec, the RX-320 DSP. It fails that criteria—it has no knobs. At a cost of about \$300 with shipping, it is a practical receiver both in performance and operation.

The RX-320 receiver uses digital signal processing (DSP) to filter and detect RF signals. It requires a computer (PC with Windows) for control and display. Out of the box, it's a basic black metal box (3" x 6" x 6") with no front controls, not even a on/off switch or pilot light. It fits nicely in a desk corner.

The Ten Tec comes with a complete set of cables, a 6 foot audio patch cord with two 1/8" stereo male plugs and a 6 foot RS-232 cable with DB-9 connectors. This makes the initial setup easy; unlike buying a \$300 printer and finding out the cable is not included. It has a small extendible whip antenna for use by those without an external antenna.

All jacks and a single power off/on switch are located on the back panel. Included on the back are: RCA external antenna jack, 15 VDC power input, DB-9 (9 pin) RS-232 female connector, mono 1/8" speaker jack, stereo (although mono, both channels are connected together) 1/8" line out audio jack, and the on/off toggle switch (the manual says to leave it on indefinitely). The external 50 ohm antenna jack is an RCA phono, not a traditional UHF. A RCA phono male plug is supplied for an external antenna, so break out the adapters. I used a RG-174 patch cord with RCA male and BNC male to connect to my antenna switch. The receiver schematic shows the RCA jack is used to disconnect the active antenna circuit for the extendible whip. The use of the RCA phono jack does allow this where a UHF or BNC jack would not. The receiver uses a 15VDC (800 ma) "wall wart" power supply for its power.

The operation manual is 31 pages. It covers connecting and using the hardware and software, short-wave listening, and external antennas. There is a description of the various bands and modes used. It's a good intro with tips written by Joe Carr for someone just starting out. The manual also provides a list of references that a beginner would find useful including one by Yoder for pirate radio.

Connecting the unit to a computer is easy. Just match the connector in hand to the appropriate jack or plug. If you are not familiar with your computer's connection points, you could have a problem. The manual does not have much information on this. I have owned other TenTec products (Century 21 and Triton IV transceivers) and have found their service people happy to help you. The phone numbers and e-mail address of the service department are provided in the manual.

Installing the software is also easy as there is only one program on the supplied floppy disk, "setup.exe". The software is a 16 bit Windows program that will run under Windows 3.1/95/98. This reduces user problems by eliminating the possibility of installing an incorrect version with the user's operating system. I have also run the software under Windows NT. It works but with a minor problem (the receiver does not always mute when exiting the program).

The version of the software supplied with my unit was an older one. Checking the TenTec web site, [www.tentec.com](http://www.tentec.com), indicated a new version (v1.27) was available. It can be downloaded from the site. I recommend the use of v1.27 software or later as it corrects a startup problem with the S meter.

The software provides a control panel for the receiver, a database for storing station and frequency information for point and click tuning, a spectrum monitoring program, and instant access to WWV and CHU time stations. The database feature allows one to enter as many frequencies as your computer memory will allow and allows multiple files to be used. The limitations are the size of your computer's RAM and hard disk. The spectrum monitoring program will display from 3 to 300 KHz in width. The software provides an effective combination of features.

I found a slight problem with the software. The database sorts the stored frequency file based on the

field selected. If one selects station and enters WWV and its appropriate frequencies the frequencies will not be in order when displayed, even if one enters them in order. The solution is after entering by station, click on frequency and the program sorts the frequencies from lowest to highest. Clicking back on station keeps the frequency order.

The operation of the receiver is easy and intuitive. The tuning is either direct by keyboard after selecting the display with the mouse, or using the mouse to click on up or down arrows on the display. There is analog dial display or a tuning knob to click on and change the frequency. During frequency changes, I did not notice any chuffing sounds. I did not expect any, because the computer limits the rate of frequency change due to the 1200 baud RS-232 rate. There is no knob to twist so one can exceed the rate of change for the frequency control phase lock loop.

The S meter, which can be displayed or not, tends to read high. The reading is like having the preamp on my Drake R8 receiver. It has two pointers on a 0 to 80 scale. The upper pointer is peak indicator with very slow decay rate. When there is any static, the upper tends to stay at 70 or 80 in response to noise bursts. The lower one moves with the signal and noise. Checking the S meter linearity with a precision attenuator shows it has excellent linearity, a 10 dB change is a 10 dB change.

The S meter is nice, but for me having the clock display on the left side is preferred with less display clutter. The clock displays both local and UTC. They are both derived from the computer's clock. The options setup allows one to set the UTC offset from local time. I do not know if the offset will be correct when Windows changes from daylight to standard time. A nice feature of the clocks being derived is it allows one to use a web time server to set the computer clock. Accurate UTC time is just a click away.

The RX-320 specifications are good, but do show that it is a lower cost receiver. For example, the spec for dynamic range is 90 dB but at a 50 KHz spacing rather than usual 5 or 10 KHz. The RX-320 performance is good based on comparison using off the air signals with my Drake R8. The IF filter widths are comparable between the two receivers. The signals on the RX-320 sound noisier than the R8, but not extremely different. There were no signs of overload with my external antenna (108' Carolina Windom).

Selectivity between the two is comparable. The test case I like to use is listening to the BBC on 6175 KHz with Radio Nederland on 6165 KHz. Both come in at 10 to 20 dB over S9 on the R8 S meter (preamp off). Usually portable receivers like Sony or Sanegan, have a beat whistle. It is not too bad to my ears, but bothers my wife to no end. There was no sign of a whistle with the RX-320 or R8. The wife never notices a problem even when I listen to the BBC for an hour and a half while both stations were on.

I have measured the filter bandwidths using a crystal oscillator (2 MHz), precision attenuators and the RX-320 S meter. Here is what I found for the bandwidths and shape factor (6 to 60 dB ratio)

- a. 8.0 KHz filter, measured value of 8.30 KHz, shape factor 1.14
- b. 5.0 KHz filter, measured value of 5.24 KHz, shape factor 1.11
- c. 2.5 KHz filter, measured value of 3.02 KHz, shape factor 1.21
- d. 1.8 KHz filter, measured value of 2.17 KHz, shape factor 1.26
- e. 0.5 KHz filter, measured value of 0.73 KHz, shape factor not determined.

The 6 dB bandwidth tends to be on wide side due to the method I use. This causes the shape factors appear to better. The problem is estimating the 6 dB point with the S meter. The S meter is about 1 dB in width causing 1 dB uncertainty. At 60 dB point, this is not as great a problem.

The RX-320 performance on strong signals is comparable with that of the R8. But for weak signals, the R8 has the edge. This is due to the phase noise of the voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) in the RX-320 phased locked loop. This is a cost issue. A good VCO costs money. This is why the R8 costs about \$1000 vs \$300 for the RX-320. The VCO phase noise also degrades the low frequency performance. The manual specifications page indicates that performance is degraded below 1 MHz. My listening experience shows the problem to occur below 500 KHz roughly. If a 50 ohm dummy load is placed on the external antenna input and tunes the receiver below 200 KHz one can hear the noise floor rise. This is due to the VCO phase noise. One only gets what one pays for.

Radios and computer control are a natural combination. Unfortunately computers, due to their radiation, can cause noise problems. This problem has reduced as PC CPU and buss clocks have entered the VHF range. The computer displays are a problem source for SW listening. One way to reduce the problem is use the highest "refresh" frequency the monitor will support. For my display, using 85 Hz vs. the normal 56 Hz, greatly helps.

(continues on page 17...)

## The Presidents Page

Pat Murphy - P.O. Box 12112 - Norfolk, VA 23541

**WINTERFEST is NEXT MONTH!!!** If you've never attended the Annual gathering of Short Wave, Broadcast and radio enthusiasts' extravaganza, you should. I've always had a blast meeting lots of people who enjoy listening to the shortwave, and listening to Pirates in general. You'd be pleasantly surprised to meet the many people who not only listen to Pirate Broadcasts, but it's rumored that some of the actual people who do Pirate Broadcasts attend these conferences, which would explain those Men in Black at the dinner celebration. You get to put faces to the many names you see in not only our publication but most of the other hobby newsletters have members attending. Most of these people are as uncomfortable at meeting new people as you are, so all you have to do is, smile and introduce yourself. You've made a new friend! The Winterfest has always had the best speakers on a number of special interest listening groups. ARQ-E, Sitor, RITV, FAX, Packet, you name to mode, they have a speaker that can teach you something you didn't know. Even the Scanner Scum (a notorious group of scanner listeners) are sufficiently entertaining, that they justify their participation. You'll see our own George Zeller and Andy Yoder give a superb summary of the "Year in Pirate Radio" forum, that will provide you with factual and vital information that will enhance your enjoyment of the hobby. You come away from the Winterfest with a sense that you've received a Doctorate in radio listening, all in one big weekend with a bunch of people that are as weird as you are.

Winterfest is held at the Holiday Inn, Kulpville, Pa. It's about 30-miles North of Philadelphia on the N.W. Turnpike Extension. Its best to stay at the Hotel, but there are other motels in the vicinity and lots of places to eat. Service in the hotel isn't very good, so you'll probably want to eat out a lot. Rooms usually cost anywhere from \$60 to \$90 a night. Friday and Saturday are the two most active days and everyone goes home on Sunday. They have a banquet on Saturday night and lots of prizes are given out and everyone makes fun of themselves. Nicest group of people you will ever have the pleasure of spending some time with and sharing information about our hobby too.

Here's the information on how to register for Winterfest 1999. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual on March 12-13, 1999 at the Lansdale, Kulpville, PA, 1750 Summerville Pike, Kulpville, PA 19443. 215-368-3800, make sure and tell the Hotel you want the "WINTER SWL FESTIVAL RATES" and they'll give you a better deal. Plan on arriving either late Thursday night or early Friday morning and spending a couple of days having a lot of fun and meeting a lot of new people who share the same interests as you. The Winterfest Website address is:

[www.trsc.com/Radio/Events/Winterfest/winterfest.html](http://www.trsc.com/Radio/Events/Winterfest/winterfest.html)

I've never met any Pirate listener who had a bad time at the Winterfest. The ACE always sets up a booth and has a table with Pirate QSL's, old ACE newsletters, T-Shirts and usually Andy Yoder will join us with his publications and T-shirts. Members stop by the table to say "hell-o" and discuss the latest Pirates they've heard or QSL's received plus it gives us a chance to put faces to the names we've all seen over the years.

I've always come away from the Winterfest, after having met dozens of ACE members, with the feeling that we are a group of the nicest "strange" people in the radio listening hobby. If you can make it to the Winterfest 1999, please do, you'll have a lot of fun and go home with the feeling that you've just been on vacation with a lot of people that are crazier than you! Most importantly, you can usually find a FREE BEER at one of the hospitality rooms!!! See you this year at Winterfest!

This monthly report is made possible by:

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[www.frn.net/ace/](http://www.frn.net/ace/)



**ASSOCIATION OF CLANDESTINE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS**  
**P. O. Box 12112, Norfolk, VA 23541-0112**

The A\*C\*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A\*C\*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A\*C\*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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